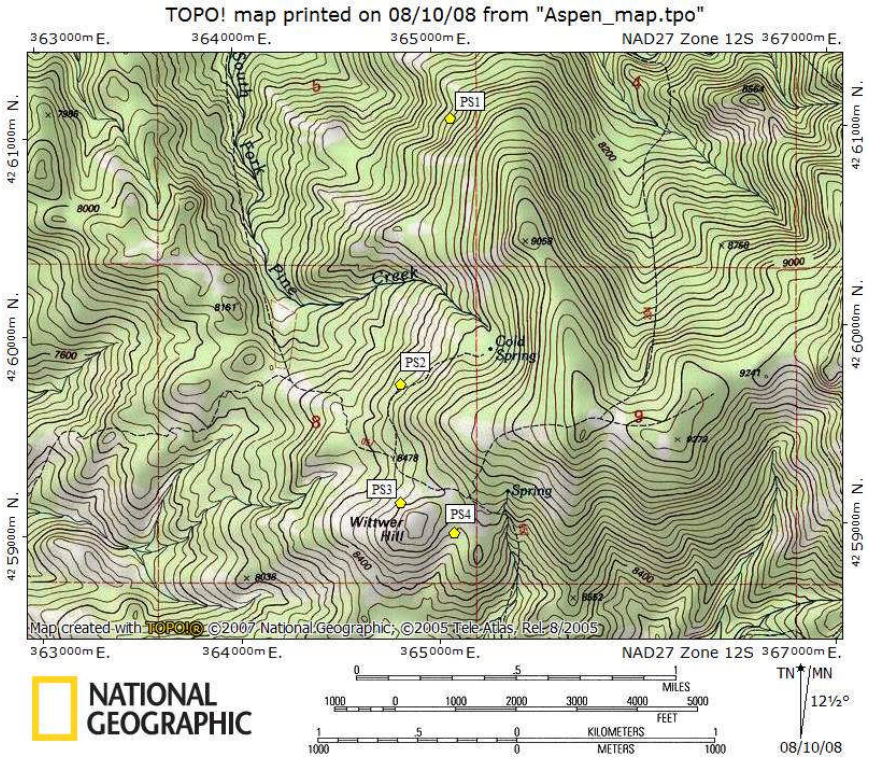
Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds Aspen Stand #1 (PS1)
July 11, 2008

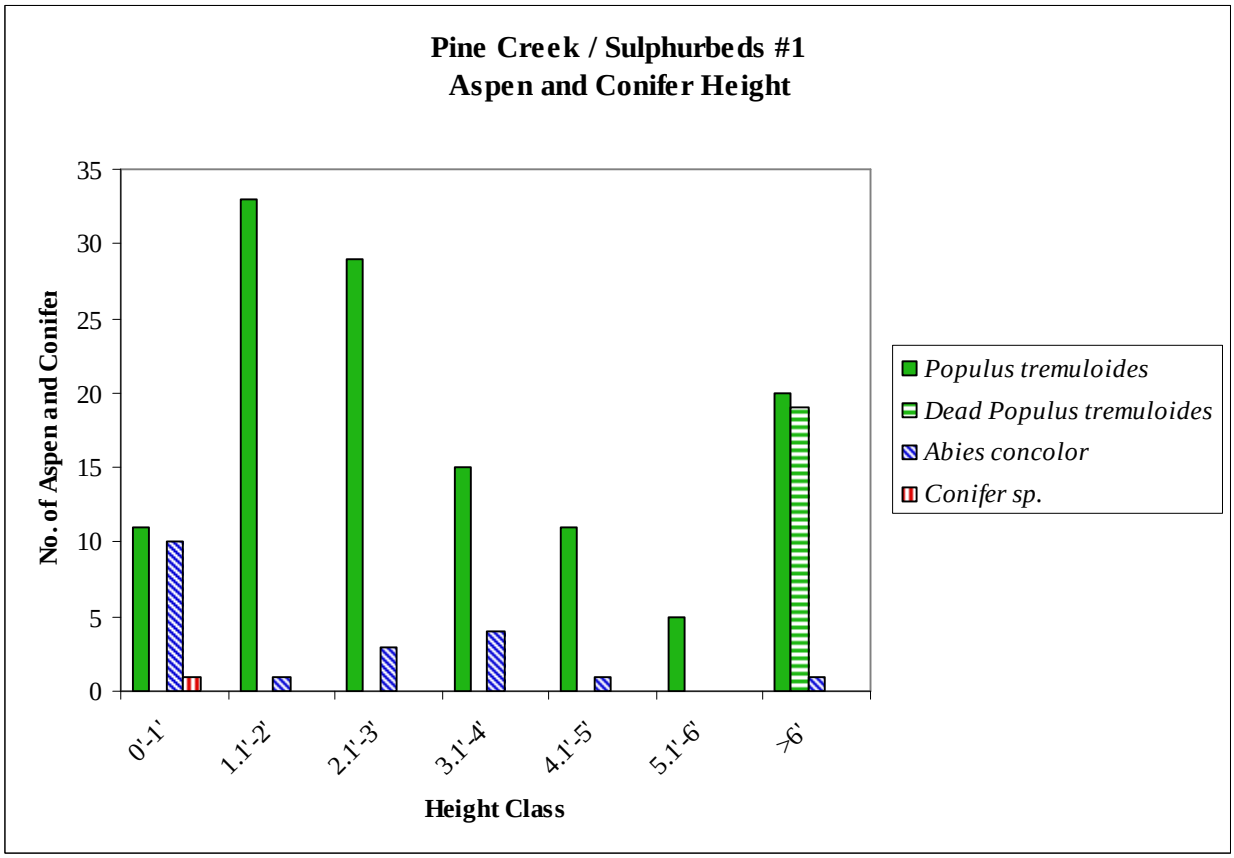
This single-tier aspen stand (PS1) is located on the northwestern end of the ridge above the confluence of South Fork Pine Creek with Pine Creek. The stand consists of overstory aspen 15-20 ft high and small understory aspen, particularly 1.1'-3' tall, which is particularly vulnerable to repeated browsing. The stand is almost completely lacking recruitment trees (>6' but no more than ¾ as tall as overstory trees).

Approximately 37% of overstory trees were senescent. A lush, dense understory of snowberry and chokecherry is present throughout the stand. Some browsing of the understory aspen is occurring (8% of main leaders browsed; 37% of sub-leaders browsed). White fir (*Abies concolor*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) are encroaching down the slope into the stand where many white fir seedlings are found. Elk sign is more common than cattle sign.



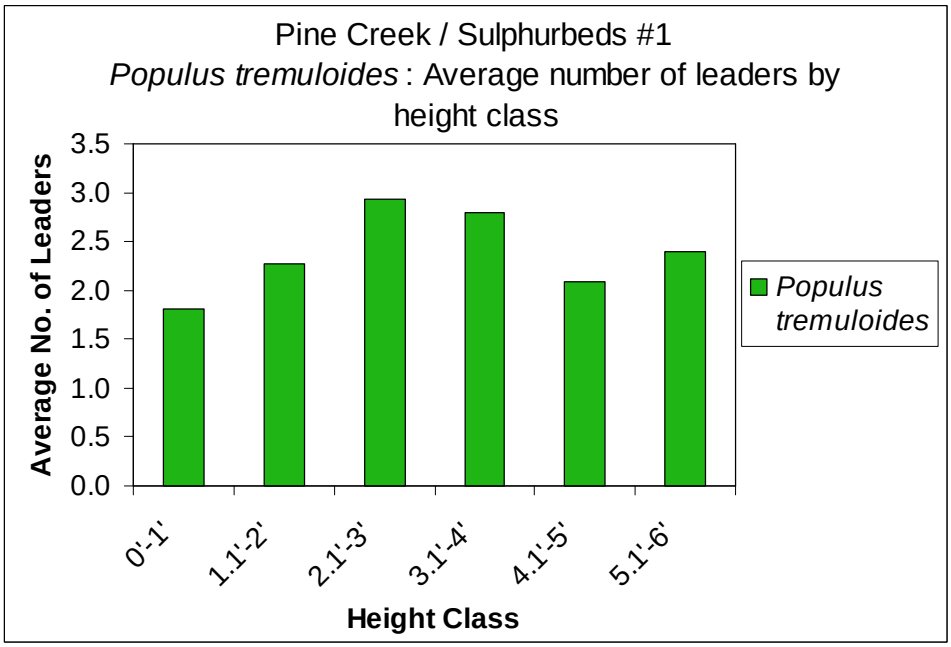
Pine Creek/Sulfurbeds #1 (PS1) Ridge west of confluence of South Fork Pine Creek and Pine Creek	July 11, 2008 Martin/David
Fishlake NF/ Beaver RD	**Allotment:** Pine Creek-Sulfurbeds **Pasture:** Pine Creek
Stand: 12N E 0365114 N 4261129 NAD CONUS 27	**Elevation:** 8,325'
Aspect: West	**Animal sign:** Cattle scat, elk scat and beds, deer scat, birds.
Dominant vegetation: White fir (*Abies concolor)* and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) are	

encroaching into the stand. A very dense understory is present reaching 4 feet in height, and includes snowberry, chokecherry, Gambel's oak, Oregon grape, *Mertensia arizonica*, rose, a vetch sp., *Carex geyeri*, *Achnatherum lettermannii*(?), and Elymus trachycaulus.
General Stand Notes: Stand with mature trees and dense patches of understory trees but few recruitment height trees. Conifer encroachment dominates the surrounding stands, but is only beginning in this stand. Thick understory may be a factor in lack of recruitment trees.
Questions: Why are there almost no recruitment-sized trees and why does the stand appear unhealthy overall?



20 *Populus tremuloides* >6': average DBH 5.7"
19 dead *Populus tremuloides* >6': average DBH 4.5"
1 *Abies concolor* >6': DBH 0.5'

Pine Creek / Sulphurbeds #1 104 *Populus tremuloides* <6'	
	Populus tremuloides
% tall leaders browsed	7.7
% tall leaders browsed or dead	12.5
% subleaders browsed	29.4
% subleaders browsed or dead	37.3



Pine Creek / Sulphurbeds #1 Aspen Stand Structure				
	% cover overstory aspen	**% cover recruitment trees**	**% cover understory trees**	**% overstory trees senescent**
Plot 1	57.5	0	4	36
Plot 2	40	0	5	39
Average	48.7	0	4.5	37.5
Single-tier stand				

Fig 1. Aspen stand (PS1) from down slope on the ridge.

Fig 2. Transect B showing mature overstory and dense ground cover.

Fig. 3. Stand structure from circle plot 1.

Fig. 4. Looking up from circle plot 1.

Fig. 5. Looking down in circle plot 1.

Fig. 6. Looking up from circle plot 2.

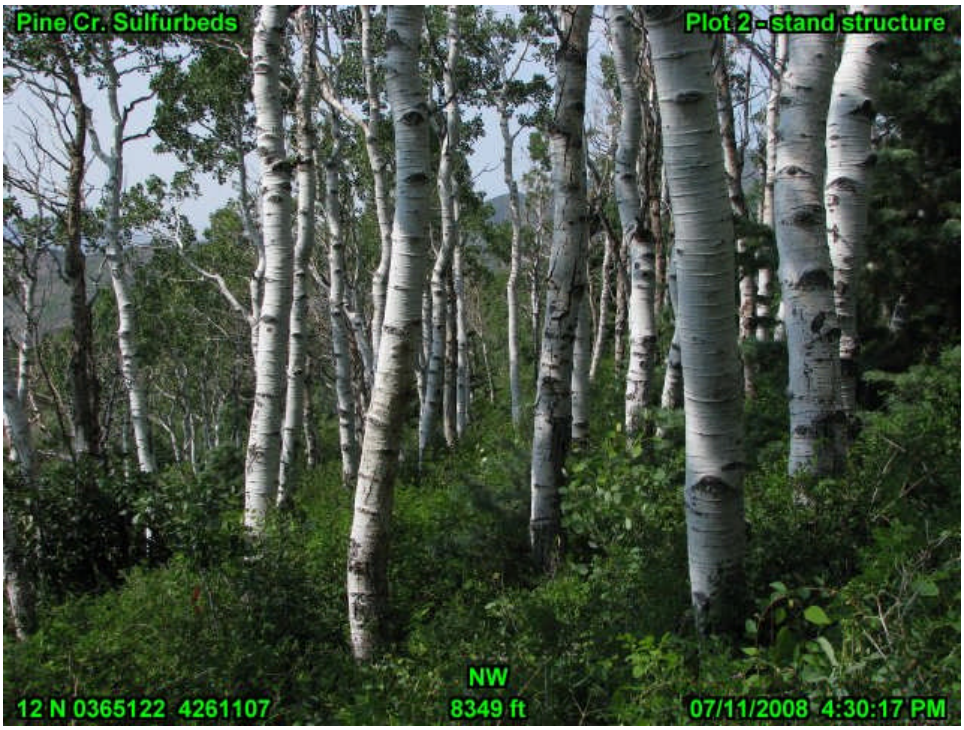


Fig. 7. Stand structure from circle plot 2.

Fig. 8. Looking down in circle plot 2: Dense understory of snowberry.